



# Fast Facts

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

LC2

## BEST PRACTICES PROGRAM

Initiated in 1993, California's Best Practices Program (BPP) works to improve the quality of care provided to residents of nursing homes throughout the state by identifying and disseminating information about exemplary practices in California long-term care facilities. While the Department of Health Services (DHS) seeks first to ensure the enforcement of minimum standards of care, the BPP promotes excellence and facilitates a positive and productive relationship with the providers of long-term care.

### How the BPP Works

#### Identification of the "Best Practices"

- Each year, a steering committee appointed by the Director of DHS develops a theme for the year (see side box for past and upcoming themes) and issues a "Call for Papers" on best practices related to the theme to providers throughout the state.
- A peer review panel reviews and selects the superior practices.

#### Recognition of the "Best Practice" Providers

- DHS conducts annual awards conferences in Northern and Southern California, where the recognized providers present their practices to a diverse audience of professionals, caregivers, and other parties interested in long-term care.

#### Best Practices Themes 1994-2001

1994	"Make Yourself at Home:" The Resident in Transition
1995	Cultural Diversity in Long-Term Care: Meeting the Challenge
1996	Beyond the Medical Model: Innovative Interdisciplinary Strategies
1997	Innovation in Long-Term Care
1998	Behavioral Interventions Beyond Chemical and Physical Restraints
1999	Turning the Tables on Malnutrition and Dehydration
2000	Integrating Long-Term Care Into the Community
2001	[untitled: End of Life Issues]

#### Spreading the Word

- DHS publishes and distributes the award-winning papers in the annual "Best Practices" manual.
- DHS assists facilities wishing to implement the practices by facilitating communication with the Best Practices presenters.
- DHS promotes the BPP throughout the California provider community through mass mailings and presentations at provider organizations' meetings.